



## **Sunburst Mental Health Services**

08/06/2018

Good day, my name is Megan Bailey, I am a clinical therapist and do program development with Sunburst Mental Health.

Sunburst currently has 6 offices in Libby, Eureka, Kalispell, Polson, Saint Ignatius and Missoula and provides mental health and substance use disorder treatment including 1:1 therapy, family preservation services, case management, community reintegration supports and medication management.

To say that the cuts were devastating would be an understatement, although Sunburst did not previously participate in any layoffs or closures our ability to maintain operations, especially in rural MT is growing increasingly harder by the day.

Targeted Case Management was the only code available to us that offered a "pad" in terms of revenue, it was in this pad that we were able to maintain operations and at times open in additional locations. TCM is also a vital service that allows us to provide supportive services to our most vulnerable, all that being said a full reinstatement of rates to TCM is not without concern. In regards to adult services a TCM system that focuses on the most vulnerable and services that explicitly allow for independent living and/or community reintegration should take the highest priority. Systems such as PACT or similar offer meaningful use of this service, in addition to this moving to a system that focuses on the departments "level of intensity" worksheet and potentially prior authorizations would potentially also ensure that TCM is used in the way that it was initially intended, minimizing the misuses of the past.

Provider rate increases in initial evaluations, 90791, would allow for this function to be "in the black" with addiction services now utilizing the same codes it is impossible to conduct an initial evaluation with diagnostics and not lose money, we ask that this issue receive some focus.

Children's services would benefit greatly from a full reinstatement of rates. With Montana boasting one of the highest rates of removal in our Child Protection System these services are vital in protecting our most at risk children and families.

Kalispell Office - 1351 Hwy 2 East, Suite 200, Kalispell, MT 59901 Phone (406) 756-8720  
Missoula Office - 725 W Alder, Suite 10, Missoula, MT 59802 Phone (406) 203-9948  
Polson Office - 40571 Montana Hwy 35, Polson, MT 59860 Phone (406) 883-4060  
St. Ignatius Office - 109 1<sup>st</sup> Ave (PO Box 703), St. Ignatius, MT 59865 Phone (406) 745-3681